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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/870,006	05/30/2001	Koichi Nakajima	972.1071	8416
21831	7590	06/19/2006	EXAMINER	
WOLF BLOCK SCHORR AND SOLIS-COHEN LLP			KARMIS, STEFANOS	
250 PARK AVENUE			ART UNIT	
NEW YORK, NY 10177			PAPER NUMBER	
			3624	

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/870,006	Applicant(s) NAKAJIMA, KOICHI	
	Examiner Stefano Karmis	Art Unit 3624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-5 are pending.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

3. The spacing of the lines of the specification is such as to make reading difficult. New application papers with lines 1½ or double spaced on good quality paper are required.

Claim Objections

4. The claims are objected to because the lines are crowded too closely together, making reading difficult. Substitute claims with lines one and one-half or double spaced on good quality paper are required. See 37 CFR 1.52(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claim 2 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 2, the phrase “the demanded total number>the supplied total number” is indefinite. It is unclear what the total number is representing. Also it is unclear what the symbol “<” is representing in claim 2. The symbol used in claim 2 should be expressed in words or defined so that it is clear what is intended by the “<” symbol.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gindlesperger U.S. Publication 2004/0078277.

Regarding claim 1, Gindlesperger teaches an auction system comprising: a management server for managing an auction connected through a communication network to terminals used by participants in the auction, and including a bidding management unit for storing a supplied total number of products or services supplied for the auction and managing the number of bidding sessions, and a time period of bidding, and a calculating unit for calculating a distribution of prices by bidders (page 4, paragraphs 0039-0042), wherein said bidding management unit determines bidders at the expiration of an invitation time-period for inviting bids (page 4, paragraph 0044-0045), and said calculating unit calculates the distribution of the

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bidding prices based on the prices bid by the bidders, and said bidding management unit announces the calculated results to the determined bidders through the communication network to urge the determined bidders to bid at the next bidding session with reference to the announced price distribution and to enable them to decide a bidding price based on the calculated results (page 5, paragraph 0055).

Claim 2, the bidding management unit stores said supplied total number of products or services supplied to the auction market, and said calculating unit counts a demanded total number of products or services based on the number of participants in the bidding and the number of products demanded by the participants, and the bidding management unit compares said supplied total number of products with said demanded total number of products and determines the bidders when a relations “the demanded total number>the supplied total number” is established (page 5, paragraph 0048).

Claim 3, the bidding management unit stores the invitation time-period and determines the bidders after the expiration of the invitation time-period (page 4, paragraphs 0044-0045).

Claim 4, wherein said bidding management unit stores a reserve price or a suggested bidding price and announces it through the communication network (page 5, paragraph 0055).

Claim 5, wherein said calculating unit calculates the price distribution in the first bidding session, calculates the price distributions in the second and later bidding sessions, and compares

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the calculated results for the second and later bidding sessions with the supplied total number of products or services stored by said bidding management unit to determine the lowest bidding group in reference to the supplied total number of products or services in decreasing order from the highest bidding group in relation to the demanded total number of products or services and sets the bidding price of said lowest bidding groups as a market price (page 5, paragraph 0055).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefano Karmis whose telephone number is (571) 272-6744. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Respectfully Submitted

Stefano Karmis

01 June 2006



FANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER